



COUNTRY PROFILE

DECEMBER 2004



India's growing population of more than one billion strains resources. Water and sanitation systems are overstressed - raising health risks and making domestic life a burden for women and girls. USAID partners with the Government of India and power and water utilities to meet consumer needs and works with farmers to conserve precious groundwater.

INDIA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1947
Capital: New Delhi
Population: 1.065 billion
GDP per person: \$493

**For more information,
see www.usaid.gov/in**

OVERVIEW

India has the potential to be a catalyst for economic growth and development in an unstable region. However, poverty, rapid population growth, weak democratic institutions and health issues challenge the country. The world's largest democracy, it is also a key U.S. ally in the war on terrorism.



More than 50 years of U.S. assistance have helped India make tremendous gains. It is close to attaining its primary development goal: halving poverty by 2015 and eliminating it soon thereafter. The United States and India are committed to reaching this goal in partnership.

PROGRAMS

KEEPING FAMILIES HEALTHY AND FIGHTING HIV/AIDS

India's growing population of more than one billion strains resources and complicates disease prevention. Maternal and child mortality rates remain high. Family planning choices are limited, particularly in North India. Polio continues, and a third of the world's tuberculosis cases are in India. HIV infections are second only to South Africa. USAID activities increase access to family health care, nourish needy mothers and children and boost their resistance to disease, fight infectious diseases and prevent HIV/AIDS. One success has been in the use of contraceptives, which have increased in target areas from 18 percent in 1992 to 27 percent in 2003.

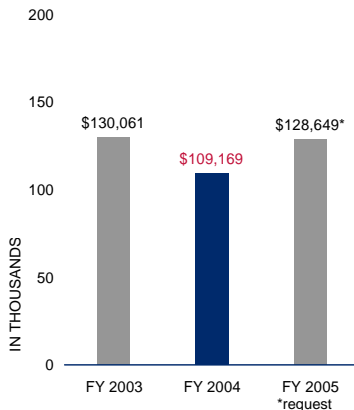
EXPANDING INDIA'S ECONOMY

While India today is a large and vibrant \$440 billion plus economy-one of the twelve largest in the world-it still has the world's largest concentration of people in poverty-more than 300 million. Economic growth drives development. Gains in expanding India's economy were made in the 1990s, but reforms have stalled. Government finances are strained. There are not enough resources for needed investment in physical infrastructure, health and education. Sustainable economic growth depends on strong financial systems. USAID brings new investors to capital markets, helps state governments forecast and analyze fiscal decisions, generates financing for urban development, and advances agricultural technologies.

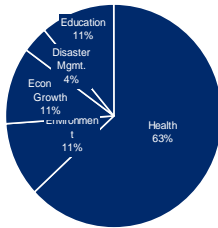


COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO INDIA



FY 2004 Budget
Percentage for Each Program Area



RESPONDING QUICKLY TO DISASTERS

Poor people are more vulnerable than others to risk. The Orissa cyclone in 1999 and the Gujarat earthquake in 2001 together killed more than 22,000 people and damaged more than 3 million houses in India. Coping with disasters can be devastating. India's earthquakes, cyclones, floods and droughts kill thousands, leave millions destitute and cause large infrastructure and financial losses. USAID shares U.S. rapid response expertise and prepares communities to reduce the effects of disasters. This means disaster plans that protect those who are most vulnerable and the ability to recover from disasters more quickly. By boosting access to American know-how, for example, the U.S.-Asia Environmental Partnership helped a 50-year-old thermal power plant in Calcutta "clean up" its act.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND ENERGY

Indians need better access to clean energy and water. Power is unreliable and financial losses in utilities run high. Water and sanitation systems, especially in cities, are overstressed - raising health risks and making domestic life a burden for women and girls. USAID is showing that commercially viable power utilities are key to meeting consumer needs and expanding supply. The link between dependable electricity supply and water conservation is being explored with farmers. Activities to promote clean technology in industry and renewable energy continue.

IMPROVING EDUCATION AND OPPORTUNITIES

Literacy is still low among Indian women. Child mortality is higher for girls than boys. About 42 million youth are out of school. Abuse, violence and disease are a part of everyday life for many of India's poor and most vulnerable. USAID creates opportunities for vulnerable people through activities that keep girls in school, return child laborers to places of learning, raise teaching quality, improve the workings of family courts and combat human trafficking.

SPECIAL FOCUS

India and the United States aim to work efficiently with public funds and leverage development investments. In the long-term, USAID envisions India's civil society working hand-in-hand with American private partners to solve development problems, without the need for U.S. economic assistance. USAID is testing a new model for achieving development goals. It could become a legacy institution for Indian-American cooperation when USAID finishes its program.

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